

# Department of Correction Provides Faith- and Character-Based Program for Juvenile Offenders

## Media Contact:

Department of Correction

Java Ahmed

(317) 234-1693

E-mail: [jahmed@doc.in.gov](mailto:jahmed@doc.in.gov)

*"This is the first juvenile P.L.U.S. Unit graduation in the state and we are very excited about the steps I.J.C.F. is taking towards promoting the P.L.U.S. program in their facility."*

*Commissioner, J. David Donahue*



## More Photos



Indianapolis, Indiana - (January 26, 2007) - The Indianapolis Juvenile Correctional Facility announced its first graduation of participants in a faith-based and character-based program today.

The maximum security facility provides a living unit for the Purposeful Living Units Serve (P.L.U.S.) program participants. The juvenile program is available to those who are interested in making life changes through the faith- or character-based program.

Eighteen of the Forty graduates performed a song and poem during the ceremony which also included speeches by the Facility Superintendent, Mr. Steve McCauley, a student graduate and the keynote speaker, Commissioner J. David Donahue. This is the first graduation ceremony for any juvenile P.L.U. S. Unit in the state.

"The P.L.U.S. Unit program has been put into practice in many of our adult and now juvenile state facilities and has helped to change the lives of participants everywhere," said J. David Donahue, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Correction. "This is the first juvenile P.L.U.S. Unit graduation in the state and we are very excited about the steps I.J.C.F. is taking towards promoting the P. L.U.S. program in their facility."

To live or work in the P.L.U.S. Unit, all offenders and officers go through an interview process. Once in the Unit the program lasts 16 weeks and focuses on strengthening spiritual, moral, and character development as well as life skills. The offenders are required to attend two groups, Power Source and Renewing the Mind, which focus on developing an ethical/moral code and a Purposeful Life Plan.

"I feel honored to work in the PLUS Unit program at IJCF. This program does work and I really can't say enough good things about the program," said the P.L.U.S. Unit Counselor Dennis Ludwick.

"I am proud of the girls who accomplished the completion of this specialized program. It shows determination and maturity that should allow them to transition back to the community," said Facility Superintendent Steve McCauley.

## **About The Department of Correction**

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.